



Protect Your Holiday Purchases

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The holiday season has begun, which means you may have extra shopping bags in your car or additional packages sent to your home. Avoid holiday theft scrooges by taking precautions before, during, and after your next shopping trip or online purchase.

Throughout the year, we remind you to lock your vehicle before you leave it unattended. If you leave your car unlocked, you are giving easy access to any belongings left inside. In addition to locking your vehicle, keep all your valuables out of sight, including your shopping bags, gifts, and packages. Rather than covering these items with a jacket or blanket, place them in the trunk of your car, or completely hidden under your seat or car mat, if small enough.

If you have decided to online shop for gifts this year, take precautions to keep your packages safe. Thieves know the holiday season means more packages are being delivered and will target unattended items. If you are away from home, these purchases are left outside for hours at a time and vulnerable to theft. If you do not think you will be home when your purchases arrive, consider requesting a signature confirmation when possible. When you require a signature, a note will be placed on your door letting you know the expected date another

delivery will occur, or where you may be able to pick up the item.

Another option is to deliver to a friend or family member who is home during the day. Make sure you ask before you set up the delivery so they will know to look out for it. You can also ask a trusted neighbor to look out for your package and hold onto it until you return. If you do not have someone to pick up your package for you, consider changing the delivery location. If allowed, you can have your purchases delivered to your work.

Consider installing surveillance cameras for added security. Although this may not prevent theft, if your package is stolen, it can assist finding the guilty parties. Not only that, but you can more easily prove theft to the company you purchased your items from.

After the holidays, remember to keep your home safe by not allowing holiday trash to make you a target. Break down boxes, put them in bags, and place them outside just prior to scheduled trash or recycling collection time. Be careful of what you post on social media, including photos of the gifts you received and your travel plans.

Have you witnessed a crime? Remember, if you see something, say something. You can contact Crime Solvers at 1-866-411-TIPS. We thank you in advance for helping keep our community safe.

We wish you a safe and happy holiday season!

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Charles County Government Media Services Division
200 Baltimore Street, La Plata, Maryland
301-645-0550 | Maryland Relay: 7-1-1 (Relay TDD: 1-800-735-2258)
www.CharlesCountyMD.gov